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4 August 1950

PROPOSED INTERAGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURE NO. 1

SUBJECT: Permanent Watch Committee

AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THIS AGREEMENT: Central Intelligence Agency
Department of State
Department of the Army
Department of the Navy
Department of the Air Force

1. A permanent interagency intelligence committee (hereinafter to be known as the Watch Committee) is hereby established for the purpose of providing timely warning of Soviet military action. To this end the Watch Committee is directed:

a. To focus the attention of intelligence analysts on specific political, economic, scientific and military indicators (positive and negative) of Soviet intentions to resort to military action; and

b. To provide an effective mechanism for interagency exchange of views on this subject at the working level.

2. The Watch Committee shall act under the Chairmanship of the Central Intelligence Agency and shall be comprised of members representing the participating agencies upon the currently constituted "Check List Group" which is hereby redesignated as the Watch Committee.

3. The Watch Committee shall, in the first instance review the methods of procedure established by the Check List Group, placing particular emphasis upon emergency procedures which will insure its capability of functioning on short notice upon a 24 hour basis.

4. Each member of the Watch Committee shall have free and speedy access to his superiors including the highest level of intelligence authority in his Agency, in order that emergency situations may be handled with the least possible delay.

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5. The Watch Committee shall conduct frequent regularly scheduled meetings attendance at which shall have priority over other duties. In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings, emergency meetings will be held whenever the situation warrants.

6. The Watch Committee shall utilize the Check List and the Check List network presently employed for the above stated purposes, in the conduct of its operations.

7. Specific responsibilities of the members of the Watch Committee shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, those set forth below:

a. The CIA Chairman shall

(1) Maintain the master Check List.

(2) Advise the Director, Central Intelligence Agency, and, through the Watch Committee members, the chiefs of the other intelligence agencies upon items of urgency coming to his attention.

(3) Convene the Watch Committee as prescribed in Paragraph 5 above.

(4) Prepare bi-weekly summaries of the activities of the Watch Committee for the Director of Central Intelligence and the Intelligence Advisory Committee members of the participating agencies.

(5) Be responsible for the production and dissemination to the agencies represented on the Watch Committee of summaries based on indicators and on evaluations thereof developed by the respective members of the Watch Committee. Such summaries shall be considered in the preparation of coordinated national intelligence.

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b. Each departmental member of the Watch Committee shall:

(1) Develop and maintain a Departmental Check List corresponding to the fields of responsibility of his Agency for intelligence production.

(2) Forward to the CIA Chairman and to the other member Agencies:

(a) Information concerning any of the indicators together with his evaluation thereof.

(b) Reports of emergency action taken, if any, on intelligence items of an urgent nature.

(c) Proposals for the addition of new indicators or the deletion of indicators considered no longer valid.

(d) Summaries of intelligence bearing on those "indicators" and evaluations thereof which fall within his Department's particular fields of responsibility.

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